

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8883

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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CINCPAC PASS AMBASSADOR OSBORN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UN, BM

SUBJECT: U THANT'S FUNERAL AROUSES DISCONTENT

1. GUB CHURLISHNESS OVER FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR U THANT HAS PROVOKED GROWING PUBLIC RESENTMENT CULMINATING IN VOLATILE SITUATION NOW IN PROGRESS AT FUNERAL SITE. WITH CROWD OF EIGHT TO TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE GATHERED AT KYAIKKASAN GROUND, WHERE U THANT'S REMAINS HAVE LAIN IN STATE SINCE DECEMBER 1, STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE SURROUNDED CASKET AND ARE DEMANDING THAT IT BE TAKEN TO UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION HALL UNTIL GUB PROVIDES SUITABLE SITE FOR BURIAL AND MEMORIAL. UN REPRESENTATIVES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE WITHDRAWN. FAMILY HEADED BY U KHANT (U THANT'S BROTHER) IS ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN CONTROL OF SITUATION. EMBOFF OBSERVED TROOPS BEING MOVED TOWARD KYAIKKASAN.

2. ALTHOUGH GUB COOPERATED WITH UN IN FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE EXTENT OF BRINGING U THANT'S REMAINS BACK BY SPECIAL AIRCRAFT FROM BANGKOK, AND BUILDING PAVILION AT KYAIKKASAN FOR LYING-IN-STATE, IT HAS OTHERWISE MAINTAINED LONG-STANDING POSTURE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD U THANT. THERE HAS BEEN NO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OR EDIT-
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ORIALS ON U THANT, AND NO PUBLICATION OF CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

TRANSMITTED TO GUB ITSELF (ALTHOUGH PRESS HAS REPORTED PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND UN DELEGATES). GUB REPORTEDLY REJECTED REQUEST BY FAMILY FOR BURIAL AND MONUMENT SOUTH OF SHWE DAGON PAGODA, FORCING BURIAL TO BE SCHEDULED IN COMMON CEMETERY. RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS AT LEAST ONE ARREST FOR DISPLAYING BURMESE FLAG AHNHALF MAST IN U THANT'S HONOR, AND GUB HAS ATTEMPTED PREVENT CHARTERINLFOF BUSES BY GROUPS WISHING TO TAKE PART IN FUNERAL PROCESSION. THIS ATTITUDE HAS STIRRED RAPIDLY GROWING PUBLIC RESENTMENT, DISPLAYED IN LAST FEW DAYS BY CROWDS VISITING KYAIKKASAN TO FILE PAST REMAINS. BY LATE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 4 SOME 10,000 PERSONS AT ANY ONE TIME WERE PAYING LAST RESPECTS AT KYAIKKASAN.

3. AS OF 1600 LOCAL TIME STUDENTS HAVE STARTED TOWARD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS WITH REMAINS.

LACEY

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Message Attributes

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